

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE

**HON. ANTHONY C. BEILENSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 1995*

Mr. BEILENSON. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, the Nation's costliest disaster struck the Los Angeles area. The Northridge earthquake, the epicenter of which was in the end found to be in the 24th Congressional District that I represent, changed forever the lives of those of us who experienced the 6.7-magnitude quake.

The extraordinarily quick response of my colleagues in Congress in passing legislation to ensure the delivery of urgently needed Federal funds to help the victims of this natural disaster was one of the most generous and gratifying that I have experienced. Despite the debate over the size of the Federal budget deficit, and the anxiety in Congress—an apprehension that is not entirely misplaced—about adding to that serious problem, Congress approved quickly the \$8.6 billion in earthquake relief that was so urgently needed. For my constituents and those of other Members whose districts were hit so hard by this disaster, I remain extremely grateful to my colleagues for their support and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, even now, we find it difficult to explain to those who live outside the area the disruption in the lives of so many people in southern California caused by this devastating earthquake. It not only destroyed homes and schools and roads, but also caused permanent job losses in an area that was already racked by a severe recession.

Yet, we have made remarkable progress in recovering from a disaster that caused nearly 60 deaths, left thousands homeless, and caused property damage estimated at more than \$20 billion. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which so splendidly coordinated the network of some 13 Federal agencies and 3,600 employees in responding to the damage caused by the quake, estimated that 92,000 buildings were damaged and 20,000 dwelling units had to be vacated. So far, over 500,000 individuals and businesses have received in excess of \$5 billion in Federal aid, a figure that surpasses Federal assistance after any previous U.S. disaster.

I cannot adequately describe for my colleagues what a magnificent job FEMA and other Federal, State, and local agencies have done overall in responding to this disaster. At a time when Government is so often criticized, we should be extremely proud of all these Government agencies, programs, and employees. As the Los Angeles Times recently said, Government agencies responded "with the most splendid emergency assistance program in U.S. history." It marked a first for disaster officials who had never been called upon to provide emergency assistance to so many people. In fact, the over 20,000 dwellings that were made uninhabitable by the quake were the equivalent of an entire mid-size American city being wiped out.

And, while the Federal Government responded efficiently to the mounting challenges caused by the earthquake to help rebuild a region that is so crucial to the entire Nation, we were all especially impressed by the volunteers from all over the country who came to our area in the San Fernando Valley and in

Ventura County to help. Individuals from the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and from many religious organizations in every region of the country provided food, shelter, clothes, day care, and help in cleaning up. All Members should be proud of the response of their own constituents to our constituents in their time of need.

Mr. Speaker, Federal aid was urgently needed to ensure that victims of this massive earthquake were able to recover—and the great majority of individuals and businesses have been able to do so, or at least make a very good beginning, within the year since the quake hit. We have been able to rebuild our badly damaged transportation infrastructure, repair our schools and homes, and revive the economic health of our area.

Of course, much work remains to be done. But the words most often used to describe the residents of the area are resilience and confidence. Even as another natural disaster—the third that has affected my district within 15 months—struck our area, my constituents have rebounded; they are helping each other, just as they did following the firestorms and the earthquake, because as we all know, the Government simply cannot rescue everyone. This is one of the most significant lessons of this major disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues, the thousands of volunteers from all over the country, the local, State, and Federal governments, and most of all, the residents of the San Fernando Valley and Ventura County for every effort made to rebuild and reconstruct our area and bring us back from the costliest natural disaster ever in North America.

**BISHOP HEAD CELEBRATES  
ANNIVERSARIES**

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 1995*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bishop Edward D. Head as he celebrates his 50th anniversary as a priest and 25th anniversary as a bishop.

In commemorating this occasion, we honor a man of towering strength and dignity, a man who, through his years of dedicated service to his church and his community, has earned a reputation for leadership, compassion and generosity. He has led the diocese of Buffalo through the difficult and tumultuous years of the last decades with unwavering faith and commitment.

His devotion to the values and traditions of the Catholic Church in the changing times has only strengthened the bond the church has in western New York, and has provided a haven for those in need.

Bishop Head was ordained a Catholic priest on January 27, 1945, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, by the late Cardinal Francis Spellman.

Pope Paul VI named him a bishop in 1970, and he served as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New York until he was appointed bishop of Buffalo in 1973.

Bishop Head was born and raised in New York State. He studied at Cathedral College in New York City, did graduate work at Columbia University and studied theology at St. Joseph's Seminary.

After his ordination, he taught sociology and did parish work until he was appointed to the staff of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York in 1947. A year later, he received a master's degree in social work from the New York School of Social Work. He continued his work with the Catholic Charities until his ordination as auxiliary bishop in 1970.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Head is a man who has generously devoted his life to working toward the betterment of his community. He is a tribute to the people he serves in western New York, and it is only fitting that we honor him today.

**COMMENDING BRUCE AIKEN**

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 1995*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bruce Tansill Aiken, a native of Brownsville, Texas, who has dedicated his life to teaching the history between Mexico and the United States. In light of the fact that the Mexican-American War is often omitted from the time lines of this country's history, this is a particularly painful time for those of us who live in the American Southwest.

This reality makes the illumination of the relationship between the United States and Mexico pivotal to understanding our future together. As an educator with a specialty in military history, Bruce Aiken has been the leading teacher of local history and area military history for our entire community.

Many of those who occupy the Southwest are descended from families who have occupied this place for hundreds and hundreds of years—long before the American Revolution, much less the war for Texas' independence or the War with Mexico. Still others are descended from the immigrants who came to the United States from Mexico in search of a better social and economic life. Mexico has played a role in shaping our country since the beginning of our history—and Bruce Aiken has spent his life teaching people how to understand that integral relationship.

After his service in the U.S. Army, Bruce served the Brownsville community as Administrator of the Brownsville Independent School District. From there, he joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Brownsville—and later became the executive director of the Historic Brownsville Museum, an association for which Bruce was the founding director.

He is a widely recognized resource on local history for other authors, as well as an author in his own right. His outstanding work was recognized by Governor Ann Richards in 1993 by his appointment to the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board. In 1982 he was appointed to the Texas Professional Practices Commission by Governor Dolf Briscoe. In 1985 the Texas Historical Commission awarded Bruce a Citation for Distinguished Service.

Bruce and I worked together on a project that was of great importance to me—establishing the Palo Alto National Battlefield Historic Site, just outside of Brownsville. Palo Alto was the only site of battle waged north of the Rio Grande between the U.S. and Mexico during the War.

In 1993 Bruce was the co-host of the first annual Palo Alto Conference. This historic conference brought together academics, anthropologists, historians, political scientists, sociologists and military research analysts from both Mexico and the United States. It was the first time such a gathering occurred, and the lessons we all learned were monumental.

Mr. Speaker, Bruce Aiken is a special man who has taught the Brownsville community much more about our history than anyone could have ever imagined. He has added to the history of our area, and our community is grateful to him for his efforts to bolster our education so that we will be better able to understand our future. January 19, 1995, has been declared "Bruce Aiken Day" by the Board of Directors of the Historic Brownsville Museum Association. I hope my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Bruce Aiken, a very special patriot, historian and teacher.

**WILKES-BARRE SOCIAL SECURITY  
CENTER FOR DATA OPERATIONS  
CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 1995*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wilkes-Barre Center for Data Operations of the Social Security Administration. This facility provides employment for more than 1,000 residents in my district.

Although the facility is now housed in a brand-new, state-of-the-art complex, this was not always the case. In the early 1980's, the Social Security Administration sought to consolidate and modernize its operations in Wilkes-Barre, which at that time were scattered about several buildings in the area. The operation needed more space and the possibility existed that the entire operation would leave northeastern Pennsylvania.

After several setbacks in finding a location for a new facility, I testified before the Appropriations Committee on the need for funding a new building. In the fall of 1986, the House and Senate approved my amendment to provide funding for a brand new facility in the Wilkes-Barre area.

For almost 2 years, problems were encountered in finding an appropriate site for the new facility. Then, in late 1988, I worked with Governor Robert Casey and State senators and representatives to draft legislation to sell 200 acres of land in Plains Township to the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund which would convey 35 acres to the GSA for construction of the building. In the months to follow, GSA determined that the construction of the new facility would actually save more than \$9 million over the life of the facility. More funding was appropriated for the project in 1990. In continued partnership between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Federal Government, the appropriate State legislation was passed, and in late 1990, the legislation for the transfer of the land from the Commonwealth to the industrial fund was signed into law. In 1991, the site for the new building was announced to the public.

Mr. Speaker, one of the proudest moments of my tenure in Congress came on November

29, 1993 when I joined Federal, State, and local officials in dedicating the new Social Security Center in Plains Township. Dedicating the facility signified the realization of a goal which I set when I was first elected to Congress. This new building assured the continued presence of the SSA in my district and secured more than 1,000 jobs for my constituents.

The building stands today as a tribute to the work ethic of the people I serve. It is also a monument to the cooperation and partnership possible among the Federal, State, and local governments. I am extremely pleased to congratulate the WBDON on its 50th anniversary and to have this opportunity to thank the Social Security Administration again for its continued faith in the people of northeastern Pennsylvania.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE NEVADA  
FOREST PROTECTION ACT**

**HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 1995*

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, 6 years of persistent drought has produced large areas of dead and dying trees and other accumulated fuels in Nevada's forested lands. The 1994 wildfire season was the worst in history, and extreme wildfire danger still exists in many of the forested lands in Nevada, including the Lake Tahoe area which, in addition to the drought, has suffered years of insect infestation, resulting in a dangerous overloading of fuels.

Last year, over 780 wildfires occurred throughout Nevada, involving well over 215,000 acres affecting areas near Caliente, Hallelujah Junction, Panacea, Lone Mountain, Bull Run, Mahogany Springs, Holbrook Junction, and Verdi. Both Federal and State resources were stretched to the limit fighting fires across Nevada as well as helping out in other States.

The risk of intense wildfires threatening the safety of people and property, like the ones that flared across Nevada and other Western States last year, can be significantly reduced by removing excessive fuel accumulations including slash piles and dead trees that become fuel ladders.

Today I am reintroducing the Nevada Forest Protection Act to preserve the health of Nevada's forested lands and to protect the lives and property of those who live in or near forested lands. This legislation requires the U.S. Forest Service and the Interior Department, working with State officials, to identify high-fire-risk Federal forested lands and to clear the forest fuels in those areas. My bill also calls for a long-term fire prevention plan to be designed by the Forest Service and Interior so that the dangerous buildup of fuels will no longer continue unchecked.

Preemptive action now will be cost effective in the long run, since the cost of fighting fires as they occur is significant. This legislation is vital in the process of preventing wildfires and improving the health of our Federal forested lands. I hope all my colleagues will support my efforts to ensure responsible management of these invaluable lands.

**ALICE SPEARS TO CELEBRATE  
HER 100TH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. RAY LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 1995*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, January 21, 1995, will be a very special day in the lives of a wonderful family living in Peoria, IL.

Alice Agnes Spears will be celebrating her 100th birthday.

Her three sons, Joseph, George, and Bill, along with 13 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great grandchildren, with family and friends, will celebrate a life of caring and inspiration for those whose lives have been touched by this devoted lady.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Alice Agnes Spears a very happy 100th birthday.

**TRIBUTE TO WOODROW W. WOODY**

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 19, 1995*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Woodrow W. Woody, president of Pontiac Motor Sales, Inc., parent company of the Woody Pontiac auto dealership in Hamtramck, MI.

Woodrow Woody is a remarkable person who has earned an impeccable reputation for hard work and service. In commemoration of Woody's 55 years of service, I am sharing a recent article from the Oakland Tech News that highlights Woody's American dream:

Never mind the Detroit Institute of Arts or Greenfield Village—the real treasure trove of local history is stored at the Woody Pontiac dealership in Hamtramck.

Woodrow W. Woody, president of Pontiac Motor Sales, Inc., parent company of Woody Pontiac, turned 87 years young on November 15 and his dealership celebrated 55 years of service on January 2.

After being honored by the Automotive Hall of Fame with its Distinguished Service Citation award recently, Woody, a friend of presidents and popes, took a few moments at his second-story office to talk about his career.

Woody finds great irony in being considered a civic institution in Hamtramck, where his Woody Pontiac dealership has been located at the northern end of Joseph Campau since January 2, 1940. Irony because Hamtramck has been known as Detroit's Polish enclave while he was born in Lebanon in the Middle East.

"When I first applied for the dealership, the district manager said, 'Hamtramck is all Polish and you're not Polish, so what do you want to go there for?'" Woody recalled. "I said, 'well, I'm dating a Polish girl so if you give me the franchise I'll marry her.'"

Franchise? Yes. Girl? Ditto.

Almost 55 years later both the dealership and his marriage to the former Anna Martes are still going strong. In between, Woodrow and Anna have had a life that most only dream of—owners of the Hillcrest Country Club in Mount Clemens, world travelers and